

Adams Advanced Nutrition, Inc.

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Heifers – your future herd!

Quality heifers are an investment in your future herd. How you manage them, and what you feed them will determine, in part, whether or not they are an expense... or an investment. Research provides valuable insights and goals for raising replacement heifers as an investment. These include such things as age at first calving between 22 and 24 months; body weight (Holsteins) immediately after first calving of about 1250 lbs. and height of at least 54 inches at the withers; a body condition score at calving of 3.25; and growth rates from 3-10 months of age averaging 1.7 to 2.0 lbs per day. This is, of course, the ideal.

Maximizing the growth of heifers is critical to their lifetime profitability on your farm! Here are some tips to help ensure your heifers are keeping pace and becoming an investment rather than a cost-center. These recommendations are taken from Dr. Mike VandeHaar at Michigan State University.

1. Provide a clean, dry environment with fresh, clean water available at all times. Good care and housing will have a positive impact on heifer growth. You need to balance the ration for optimum per-day weight gain. A free choice TMR is suggested. The combined potential of a good environment and a carefully balanced ration can be outstanding.
2. Measure progress. Since heifers represent an investment in your future productivity and profitability, it is critical to measure the continuing success of your program and be willing to make adjustments as necessary. This can include carefully looking at your heifers each day, as well as using a scale or tape measure to check on weight and height. It is even worth the time to chart their development on a regular basis. Important times include weaning, approximately five months of age, breeding, and just after calving.
3. Work with a good nutritionist. The importance of good nutrition for your heifers is well documented! A good nutritionist can help you design and implement a result-oriented replacement heifer program, and pay attention to such things as protein, minerals and vitamins in the ration. It is also important to work with your veterinarian to develop and maintain a schedule of immunizations and general health care. The results will be healthier heifers with improved growth rates.

I can help evaluate your current replacement heifer program! It can make a difference in the future of your herd. Call today... and make heifers an important entity on your farm.

QUALITY HYBRIDS – EXCELLENT RESULTS WOLF RIVER VALLEY – MYCOGEN - AGRICULVER

How's your ration at feedout? I have products that can help to ensure your feed is fresh and safe every time you feed. Improve the quality of rations, while protecting cows from mycotoxins and molds. Get the facts. Call me today. Ensure they're getting quality every day... and every mouthful!

**IMPROVE PRODUCTION & PROFITABILITY
RENAISSANCE... the TEAM that DELIVERS!**



Is there a problem with the feed?

Something curious I have seen when I'm out on farms ~ everything looks fine with the ration (on paper, in the bunk, etc.), but still there is a scattering or more of cows in the herd that have very loose, bad looking diarrhea. It doesn't look like acidosis. So, what is making cows sick? More often than not, the cause seems to be feeding spoiled feed, rotten silage or moldy grain. My guess is that it usually does not hit all

cows evenly across the herd because the spoilage does not mix evenly in the ration. There is not much research on this subject, just lots of observations. One explanation for how spoiled or moldy feeds might affect cows in this way is that some of the toxins produced by the spoilage organisms may act on bacteria in the gut, perhaps killing off the more beneficial microbes and leaving less favorable ones, much like antibiotics. If the wrong bacteria become the main occupants of the gut ~ the cow has problems! This can adversely impact cow health and production.

If you see this kind of problem with your cows, take time to walk the feedbunk. Are there chunks or balls of moldy or spoiled feed? If you break open the chunks, they usually smell rotten! Also, take time to look at the feeds and check the commodity shed to ensure that feeds stored against concrete walls have not taken on moisture and started to mold, or that feed which was supposed to be dry has not, somehow, become damp and started to heat.

How can you solve this problem? Simply stated – don't feed bad feed! Throw spoiled feed away, not feeding it to any livestock. This also means managing the bunk silo so that you minimize spoilage on the feeding face. Ensure that feeds are kept dry and rotate feeds so that you feed the oldest load first. I can help you review your feed management program and recommend products that can help if mycotoxins and/or mold may be a concern.

(from an article by Dr. Mary Beth Hall, U. of Florida)

Looking ahead to spring!

Have you purchased seed for 2004? This is often a matter of habit, not taking into consideration the possible impact a particular hybrid may have on your future feeding program. Forages comprise the bulk of most rations. That's why it's important to get all the information possible on available hybrids and then make a conscious decision on what to purchase and plant. I can help you, providing extensive information on research-tested varieties! This can impact your entire feeding program next year. Information includes valuable digestibility data, possible milk per ton variables, suggested varieties for our area, and much more. Don't wait until it's time to start planting. Call today and order soon. Receive a cash discount for orders placed this month. Don't settle for just any hybrid! Get the best from Renaissance.

Interested in discussing topics in this newsletter, or want to do a better job feeding and managing your cows? Call me! My goal is to help you. That's Renaissance's commitment to you!

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Happy New Year!



WHAT ARE YOUR COWS TELLING YOU?

Cows cannot produce milk on feed they do not eat! Consider the following:

- a) Keep the feedbunk filled, pushing feed up to the cows regularly;
- b) Don't feed spoiled feed (see article on other side!);
- c) Evaluate bunk space per cow (recommendation is for 2-2.5 feet bunk space/cow);
- d) Clean the feed bunk on a scheduled basis;
- e) Take time to observe your cows after feeding. Look for such things as sorting, as well as more social-oriented activities like excessive dominance and competition for feed. Do smaller and younger animals get pushed away from the bunk? Is there excessive mud, manure, water, ice or other debris that impede movement to/from the bunk? Developing the best feeding system for your herd requires careful observation and sometimes management changes. But, attention to these things will have a positive impact on productivity and profitability. The cows work hard for you... give them the best and watch them work even harder!

A POINT TO PONDER...

A new year is here with possibilities, challenges, concerns and expectations. It's a time when many people make "resolutions" – how they intend to change or do things differently in the coming days, weeks and months. Sadly, most of these are forgotten (or abused) in a short period of time. We don't know what the future holds and it does no good to fret and worry about it. A healthy exercise, however, is to take time to reflect and work on things we can change, along with counting and appreciating the many blessings that are ours to enjoy. We wish you a New Year filled with good things!

WHAT DOES RENAISSANCE OFFER?

Making the most of livestock rations and nutrition is a daily necessity. You need to ensure livestock get what they need... when they need it! Good nutrition helps maintain body condition, while working toward improved productivity and profitability. Here are a few things that we offer...

- Comprehensive dairy programs/products
- Beef programs/products: cow/calf & feedlot
- Swine programs and products
- Poultry products
- Equine products
- Sheep products
- Veterinary & Nutritional support
- Complete agronomy support
- Quality, tested hybrids, alfalfa and grasses

...and much more!



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Happy New Year - 2004

Start the New Year off..

***with RENAISSANCE NUTRITION
& results you can depend on!***

CHECK IT OUT.

